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THE
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To the Right Reverend Father in God

S H U T E,

By DIVINE PROVIDENCE,

LORD BISHOP of DURHAM,

On THURSDAY, August 4th, 1791,

By JOHN SHARP, D. D.

SUBDEAN and PREBENDARY of DURHAM;

With His LORDSHIP's Answer.

D U R H A M:

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T H E

S P E E C H, &c.

M Y L O R D,

P E R M I T me on this joyful Occasion to congratulate your Lordship in the Name of the Right Reverend the DEAN and the CHAPTER of the Cathedral, on your Lordship's Translation to the SEE of Durham; an Event which there is every Reason to believe, will give the most general Satisfaction to both Laity and Clergy in your Lordship's Diocese; who are truly sensible of his Majesty's Care and Protection of the Church in this northern Part of the Kingdom, by his Nomination of your Lordship to fill this important Station; especially as the deplorable State of Health of our late Diocesan
had

had for some time unavoidably prevented him from residing among us. But your Clergy will now think themselves happy in having free Access to your Lordship, for Advice, Protection, or in any Difficulties that may occur in their respective Parishes, and will be glad of every Opportunity of testifying their Respect and Obedience to your Lordship.

The SEE of DURHAM has been filled at different Times since the Reformation, with Prelates of the most exalted Characters, whether for Learning, Piety, Munificence, Benevolence or Charity, all which we flatter ourselves will be united in your Lordship's Character, in which both the Will and the Power of doing Good, we trust, are happily joined.

Had the Right Reverend the Dean been present, instead of so humble a Substitute as myself, to have welcomed your Lordship on your Entrance into your Diocese, he would have conveyed the Sentiments of the Chapter with Eloquence and Propriety. But your Lordship will be so kind as to accept my well meant Endeavours,

The elegant Cathedral which your Lordship has given up, and which under your Inspection was highly improved and decorated

corated, while your Lordship presided in it, is greatly superior to any thing to be met with here; but I flatter myself that it will be some Satisfaction to your Lordship, to see your present Cathedral emerging from a decayed state as to outward Appearance; in the Inside indeed, the robust Style of the Saxon Architecture is incapable of much Improvement, but there is nevertheless what will make up that Defect, and give much Pleasure to a Person of your Lordship's refined Taste and Judgment, in Musick, particularly in Sacred Harmony; a Choir perhaps equal if not superior to most in England, except in the great Metropolis.

I presume, I may say with some Degree of Confidence, that it is the ardent wish of every good Member of the Church of England, within your Lordship's Diocese, that your Lordship may be, and long continue to be, a Father to your Clergy, the Patron of Merit, the Friend of the Poor and Distressed, and an Example of every Thing that is great and good.

His

His LORDSHIP's Answer.

I Consider it, Mr. SUBDEAN and Gentlemen, as one of the most pleasing Circumstances attending my unsolicited Elevation to this distinguished See, that I receive, on my Accession to it, the kind and obliging Congratulations of a Chapter, with the very respectable Head of which I have long lived in Habits of Intimacy; and with some of whose valuable Members I passed a Part of my early Days: With those, to whom it has not hitherto been my good Fortune to be personally known, I hope to be soon connected in friendly Intercourse.

While this recent and repeated Instance of his Majesty's favourable Opinion excites in my Mind the warmest gratitude, it will also, I trust, animate me in such a Discharge of those important Duties, which my Situation demands, as may best express the Sense I entertain both of the Nature of the Office, and the Manner of conferring it; and prove the most acceptable

Return,

Return, which a Sovereign, invariably anxious for the Welfare of his People, wishes to receive.

I am too well aware how much the civil and ecclesiastical Interests of this Palatinate and Diocese depend on the peculiar Powers vested in the arduous Station which I have the Honour to hold, not to feel a real Consciousness of my own little Merits and Abilities, and a sincere Desire to profit by your Advice, as Emergencies may occur. But whatever be my Deficiencies, I can yet venture to promise my earnest Attention to those great and primary Interests, which should never be separated; the Union of which forms the envied Constitution that we enjoy: A Constitution, in which Establishment is harmoniously blended with Toleration, and limited Monarchy is the best Guard to the Rights of the Subject: A Constitution, which it should be the Object of every good Citizen to support; that the unparalleled System of National Polity, which our Ancestors delivered down to us, may be transmitted inviolate to Posterity.

To deserve the Esteem of this Palatinate and Diocese shall be the Ambition and Endeavour of my future Life. May it please God to enable me to fulfil the various Duties of this Office, which in the Course of his Providence he has intrusted

to

to me, with Fidelity and Diligence; to maintain, against the Encroachments of Error and Innovation, the genuine Doctrines of Christianity; to advance the Interests of Virtue, Religion, Learning and Merit; to be the Friend of my Clergy; and to promote my own Happiness, temporal and eternal, by studying to promote that of others.

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